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INFORMATION REPORT

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

Indochina

25X1A2g

SUBJECT

Summary of Helicopter Operations in the
Evacuation of Wounded from April 1950 to
December 1954

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SOURCE

1.

2.

"UH-12A Helicopters - The first two UH-12A helicopters were put in service in April 1950. These helicopters showed excellent qualities. This equipment was maintained with periodical overhauls of short duration and was found to be sturdy and easily maintained. Loading wounded was rapid enough and could be carried out without lifting off the litter carriers (particularly valuable under fire). These aircraft, being very light, could be landed in very small areas and were often transported in Bristol freighters to airfields nearer to the combat zone.

3.

"The problems raised by their short range were easily resolved in multiplying the fuel dumps throughout the Indochina territory. These dumps allowed us to refuel in a few minutes.

4.

"These aircraft carried two lying wounded, and sometimes three.

5.

"H-23A Helicopters - These were put in service in March 1952, and these aircraft were found to be inferior to their predecessors. In fact, the difference of 150 lbs in empty operating weight with the same 178 HP engine gave a large handicap to the H-23A in which we were only able to evacuate one lying wounded. Nevertheless, whenever conditions were favorable, the temperature was low, the wind was light and the landing place open, we were able to evacuate two lying wounded.

6.

"H-23B Helicopters - These were put in service in March 1953, and proved themselves to be excellent from all points of view. Equipped with 200 HP engines, giving them a reserve of power, these aircraft assured us, often under very trying circumstances, successful evacuation of wounded in the Tonkin Delta as well as Health Department missions in mountainous and wooded areas. Landings under fighter cover in posts surrounded by the rebels were made particularly delicate because of the confined landing space (often simply the yard of a block house) and by the fire of enemy arms. Being very maneuverable, they permitted us in the months of September and October 1953, alone, to evacuate more than 800 wounded soldiers. Fitted with skid landing gear, they were able to land on the banks of rivers and on very rough ground.

7.

"These aircraft, despite their limited range, were indispensable in the Indochina theatre of operations. They complemented perfectly the operations carried out by the large type of helicopters.

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8. "Results obtained by Hiller helicopters in the Indochina theatre of operations from 16 Apr 50 to 31 Dec 54.

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Flying Hours	218.40	362.00	939.40	1543.30	1388.55	4452.45
Flying Hours in Operations of War	79.35	241.50	860.15	1268.30	565.50	3016.00
Flying Hours Under Fire	43.00	161.00	540.00	1265.00	744.00	2753.00
Number of Wounded Evacuated	69.00	238.00	699.00	1692.00	847.00	3545.00
Shot Down Pilots Saved	-	5.	4.	6.	2.	17. "

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